

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-11 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 6, 10, and 11 being the independent claims. By the foregoing amendment, claims 1 and 6 are sought to be amended. Claims 10 and 11 have been indicated to be allowable. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended so that the *second switch is disposed in-between the first switch and the third switch*. Since the first, second, and third switches are consecutive (or adjacent) to each other, then the switches form an ON-OFF-ON consecutive configuration within the resistor ladder as claimed. Claim 6 has been similarly amended, and has also been amended to remove the allegedly offending language of *followed by*.

AAPA clearly does not teach the ON-OFF-ON consecutive switch configuration, as recited in the claims. More specifically, FIG. 1 of AAPA only shows that M4 is ON, with adjacent switches OFF. FIG. 2 shows that a group of switches M2-M5 are ON, but does not show any switch in-between M2-M5 as being OFF. Accordingly, AAPA does not disclose the ON-OFF-ON configuration that is recited in Applicants' independent

claims 1 and 6. Therefore, AAPA does not teach each and every feature of Applicants' claimed invention, and does not support an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) be removed and that these claims be passed to allowance. Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and claims 7-9 depend from claim 6, and therefore are patentable over the cited art for the reasons mentioned above in addition to their own patentable features. Based on the discussion above, Applicants request that the rejections and objections be withdrawn and that claims 1-11 be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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